

# THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

---

## HISTORY, MEMBERSHIP AND DOINGS

The Department of History of the State of South Dakota was created by act of the legislature, approved by your excellency, upon the 5th day of February, 1901, and which act vested the administration of such Department of History in the State Historical Society, which was duly organized on the 23d day of January, 1901, with the following membership:

### LIFE MEMBERS

Bishop Thomas O'Gorman,  
O. C. Berg,  
Robert F. Kerr,  
Burton A. Cummins,  
David Eastman,  
Cassius C. Bennett,  
Emiel Branch,  
C. B. Billinghamurst,  
E. E. Collins,  
Howard C. Shober,  
William H. Roddle,  
John L. Pyle,  
Isaac Lincoln,  
Coe I. Crawford,  
Frank Crane,  
Robert J. Gamble,  
John Hayes,  
John Schamber,  
Joseph M. Green,

Dick Haney,  
Robert McDowell,  
Pattison F. McClure,  
E. P. Farr,  
Louis G. Ochsenreiter,  
Charles M. Daley,  
J. D. Lavin,  
Frank A. Morris,  
James D. Elliott,  
John T. Kean,  
Nathan P. Johnson,  
Charles L. Hyde,  
F. W. Boettcher,  
John E. Ripple,  
Seth Bullock,  
James D. Reeves,  
L. B. Albright,  
Charles H. Burke,  
Louis K. Lord,

## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

14

Garrett Droppers,  
George V. Ayers,  
John Sutherland,  
Thomas M. Shanafelt,  
Gov. Charles N. Herreid,  
John Q. Anderson,  
Thomas L. Riggs,  
E. H. Wilson,  
George W. Snow,  
N. C. Nash,  
Ellery C. Chilcott,  
Charles E. DeLand,  
DeLorme W. Robinson,  
Doane Robinson,  
G. J. Schellinger,  
Marcus P. Beebe,  
James Halley,  
S. Grant Dewcl,

John Westdahl,  
B. F. Pucket,  
Herman Ellerman,  
Chas. B. Foncanon,  
Theo. F. Riggs,  
Cephas W. Ainsworth,  
Charles E. McKinney,  
James M. Brown,  
Walter M. Cheever,  
Ben C. Ash,  
David E. Lloyd,  
Sidney R. Gold,  
Horace G. Tilton,  
David Williams,  
Edmund Cook,  
O. S. Swenson,  
Philip Lawrence,  
John D. Logan.

### ANNUAL MEMBERS

J. H. Maynard,  
Eugene ngton,

Henry K. Warren,  
W.C. Bower.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Pierre Chouteau, Saint Louis, Missouri.  
Rev. John P. Williamson, Greenwood, South Dakota. Moses K.  
Armstrong, Saint James, Minnesota.

### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Reuben Gold Thwaites, Madison, Wisconsin. Warren Upham,  
Saint Paul, Minnesota. Charles Aldrich, Des Moines, Iowa. Grace  
King, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jay Amos Barrett, Lincoln,  
Nebraska.

### OFFICERS

At the date of the organization of the State Historical

## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS 15

Society, the following executive committee was elected by the members present

Governor Charles N. Herreid, Secretary of State O. C. Berg, State Auditor James D. Reeves, Louis G. Ochsenreiter, Hans Myron,' Seth Bullobk, terms expire January, 1903; Thomas L. Riggs, Thomas M. Shanafelt, Robert F. Kerr, DeLorme W. Robinson, tern's expire, January, 1905; Charles E. DeLand, Burton A. Cummins, John Hayes, Charles M. Daley, terms expire January, 1907.

The executive committee at once organized upon that date by the election of Thomas L. Riggs, president; Thomas M. Shanafelt, vice-president; Doane Robinson, secretary, the state treasurer becoming treasurer of the society by virtue of his office.

### **RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

Received from life membership fees.....	\$ 727 45
Received from annual membership fees.....	8 00
Received from books sold.....	<u>6 00</u>
	\$ 741 45
State appropriation.....	<u>500 00</u>
	\$ 1,241 45
Paid for secretary's salary from January 23, \$	562 50
1901, to January 1, 1902.....	240 77
Paid for stationery, postage, express,.....	307 51
freight, exchange, traveling expense, etc.,	17 26
and office rent, secretary's office....	<u>50</u>
Paid for typewriter and furniture.....	
Paid for railway ticket for Thomas Tate,	
in consideration of memoirs of Colonel	
John Patten.....	
Exchange, charged off by treasurer	
	<u>1,128 68</u>
Balance.....	\$ 112 77

Vouchers for all of which are filed in this office.

From the outset it has been the object of the society to not only collect and verify every available fact relating to the state's history, but, at the same time, to cultivate in the people an interest and pride in the state, its development and history, and to this end the secretary has made addresses before schools, teachers' institutes and associations, and societies of citizens and old settlers, forty-one addresses in all. An extensive correspondence has been carried on, by members of the executive

'Did not qualify.

## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

16

committee, to ascertain and verify the stories of important historical events, the result of a portion of which is exhibited in the accompanying historical papers. Many historical localities have been visited for the purpose of studying the subject upon the ground and from original sources, and several interesting points have been marked by the erection of substantial posts properly inscribed. These are the locations of the first church built in Dakota Territory, at Vermillion; the original school house site at Vermillion; the point in Spink county where Abbie

Gardner Sharpe was rescued from the Indians in 1857; the point where Mrs. Marble was rescued in the same year, at Lake Herman, in Lake county. At the suggestion of this society the citizens of Bon Homme county have marked with a tablet of stone the location of the first school house in the territory, at Lion Homme, and the citizens of Walworth county have organized to erect a suitable monument to mark the point of the rescue of the Shetek captives, in that county. The secretary has definitely located the graves of John Other Day and Paul Mazakutamane, in Roberts county, Indians who at great hazard rescued white captives.

Having before us the task of establishing the lines upon which the work of the society shall be prosecuted, it was thought wise, among other things, to studiously prepare a review of the progress of the state at the close of each year, and accordingly at the conclusion of the year 1901 such a review was published. Very much interest in it was exhibited and more than twenty thousand copies of it were circulated directly by the secretary. Though it was not primarily intended for that purpose, the excellence of the conditions in the state, revealed by it, made it an exceptionally important and convincing exponent of the advantages offered by South Dakota to homeseekers, and it has been reproduced and circulated by other publishers to the extent of 200,000 copies.

The secretary has also compiled a brief, but comprehensive, booklet of information relating to the state, which has received a circulation of more than 150,000 copies.

The secretary has also continued the publication of the Monthly Dakotan, which has been a useful and valuable auxiliary to the work of the society; indeed, but for it, it would

have been impossible to accomplish much of the work, in rescuing and preserving the state's history, which has been done. It is not an idle boast to assert that these publications alone have already returned to the state, a thousand fold, the small sum appropriated for the maintenance of the Department of History.

The War Department at Washington has exhibited much interest in the work of this department and has placed at its disposal every facility for the study of the early military operations in the Territory and of the military posts in this locality, and citizens generally have shown much interest and rendered valuable assistance.

No great progress has been made in the assembling of an historical museum, for the reason that there is no secure place to deposit valuable relics. Many very curious, interesting and valuable relics are in the possession of the citizens of South Dakota and other sections of the west, who will gladly deliver them to the custody of this society, as soon as fire proof quarters can be secured, but for the present it has been thought that there is much less hazard in leaving these articles scattered in the hands of careful owners, than to gather them into one collection where a single fire may destroy all. Therefore the secretary has been at much pains to discover the possessors of such wares, but has not endeavored to gather anything which appeared to be in safe hands, unless the wares were voluntarily turned over to the society.

The following contributions are acknowledged

From the former South Dakota Historical Society, two boxes of miscellaneous books and pamphlets not catalogued, one set Catlin's North American Indians, one plaster cast of footprints on Medicine Rock, one pair gauntlet gloves worked in quills, one pair moccasins, one steel battle-axe, one beaded knife sheath, one beaded quirt, one gavel used in constitutional convention of 1885, one catlinite paper weight, one oil painting of old Fort Pierre, one constitution and by-laws of South Dakota Historical Society and one record book of said society, one bound volume of the Blunt Advocate, one bound volume of the Brookings Press, manuscript proceedings of the constitutional conven-

tion of 1883, register of the Grand Pacific Hotel at Pierre for 1881.

From Win. M. Kemp, Pierre, one gold pen and ivory holder.

Mrs. Charles H. Sheldon, Governor Sheldon's gold spectacles.

Mrs. William B. Sterling, Alr. Sterling's commission as United States district attorney.

Ralph Stoddard, Pierre, collection of Ree Indian relics.

Charles McCord, Pierre, human skeleton found at Pierre. Captain

Frank Lillibridge, cowskin robe embellished with pictograph history of battle of Little Bighorn, General Crook's walking cane and headquarters flag.

Dr. DeLorme Robinson, four arrows, two pipes, one war club, one winter counts.

Nathan P. Langford, Saint Paul, Minnesota, "Vigilantes' Ways and Days."

Governor Samuel J. Albright, spur worn on first trip to Dakota, parliamentary manual used in squatter legislature at Sioux Falls, 1858.

Colonel I. W. Goodner, collection of relics of criminal trials in Governor Louis K. Church's court.

Hon. Robert J. Gamble, shackles used on Kelly, accused of attempt to poison officers at Fort Sully.

Robert E. McDowell, General Hugh J. Campbell's cane and cob pipe; numerous public documents bearing upon the history of Dakota.

Mrs. Franklin J. Dewitt, letter written by Dr. Williamson warning settlers at Medary, 1858, of threatened Indian outbreak.

Wm. L. Gardner, Louisville, Kentucky, letter written by Hugh Glass, 1823, telling of killing of John Gardner by Ree Indians.

Mrs. Newton Edmunds, Governor Edmunds' sword-cane. Governor John A. Burbank, razor with which he shaved while governor.

E. Frank Peterson, bound atlases of Clay, Davison, Turner and Hanson counties.

Mrs. R. E. Rowley, history and atlas of Turner county.

Silas W. Kidder, collection of the letters and private papers of judge Jefferson P. Kidder; bill book of judge Kidder.

Franklin Taylor, collection of old letters and papers.

United States Cavalry Association, "Old Fort Pierre and Its Neighbors."

General W. H. H. Beadle, series of old German maps of North America; Barber's surveying; "Picturesque America," devoted to Dakota Territory; miscellaneous letters and pamphlets.

Dr. D. W. Robinson, autograph of Sitting Bull.

Sever Myron, block of wood from the Myron homestead house, the first house erected by Norwegian settlers in Dakota.

Isaac Twedt, Volga, limestone slab, bearing inscription, plowed up on his farm by Henry Twedt.

Judge George L. Bingham, medicine stick.

Bishop Thomas O'Gorman, memoirs of Father Revoux. photograph of Father DeSmet.

Wiley & Danforth, "Ordway's Record," printed at Sioux Falls in 1881.

Governor N. G. Ordway, his personal defense against criticisms of his administration; also a biographical sketch

Governor Charles N. Herreid, memorandum of judge Milburn of Montana relating to the closing of the Crow Creek reservation.

Herman Ellerman, ballots used in the railway bond election at Yankton in 1871, in which the famous Yankton county bonds were authorized.

Captain George E. Masters, orders No. i Dakota militia.

Mrs. Delia Rounds Williams, sketch of the old school house at Bon Homme.

Frank E. VanTassel, copies of bills of merchandise, 1874. Robert E. McDowell, John R. Gamble's certificate to teach school.

Governor Charles N. Herreid, copy of Eureka Post for March 30, 1898, containing engravings illustrating Eureka as the world's greatest primary wheat market; copy of ballot used in general election of 1892, in McPherson county, printed in both German and English.

Florence Daly, Columbia, history of the Daly school.

Dr. W. E. Crane, gun, tomahawk, human skull, knife-sheath.

The society desires to make especial acknowledgment of a gift of five hundred volumes of "The Early Empire Builders of the Great West," from its able author, Hon. James H. Armstrong, of St. James, Minnesota, formerly delegate to congress from Dakota Territory.

The secretary has desired to gather the largest possible amount of personal information relating to the citizens of the state, biographical and geneological, and to that end has sent out six thousand blank forms requesting data of this character, and in this way has gathered several hundred biographies and some extended geneologies.

The co-operation of all citizens is invited to make the record; of the society available always as a source of information relating to families, kinship and kindred subjects of interest.

One life member of the Historical Society has been called by death, Hon. John L. Pyle, attorney general of South Dakota, whose death from typhoid fever occurred upon February at, 1902.

It has, of course, been impossible to keep rooms open at the capital, as contemplated by the organic act, for the reason that the funds at the disposal of the society have been too limited to admit of the necessary expense. It goes without saying that the work of the society has been hampered at every point by lack of funds, and but for the public spirit and enthusiasm of the officers and executive committee it could not have been carried forward at all.

It seems scarcely necessary to argue the value of the work of a historical society from the standpoint of education and good citizen making. Liberal appropriations are made annually by the legislature for instruction in our state institutions, in ancient and foreign history, and it seems a paradox that the history of our own commonwealth should be neglected, or so scantily provided for, that research is crippled or carried forward at private expense.

The society confidently hopes that the next legislature will see its way to provide a sufficient appropriation, so that at least one man may devote all of his energy to this important work.

The executive committee have held meetings from time to time for the transaction of routine business and to give the sec.



retary such advice as appeared advantageous to the work. At the meeting held upon March 7, 1901, Messrs. Cummins, DeLand and Riggs were appointed a financial committee, and all expenditures of money have been made with their approval and have been ratified by the full board.

At the meeting held upon October 9, 1901, Messrs. 1). W. Robinson, Chas. E. DeLand and Doane Robinson were appointed a committee upon printing, and the various papers of this report have been prepared under their direction or upon assignment made by them.

The historical papers handed you herewith as a part of this report are presented with confidence in their historical accuracy and represent an amount of laborious research which will be appreciated by all who are conversant with work of this character. Every one is aware of the effort frequently involved, in securing testimony, to establish a fact which transpired but a few weeks ago. How much greater then the difficulty of determining a truth, hidden by the passage of a century? The latter task has been the undertaking of the editors of the several papers, and they have been exceptionally successful.

By the Executive Committee.

-Thomas L. Riggs, President.

-Doane Robinson, Secretary.